



# News Release

## Arizona Department of Public Safety

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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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### **Department of Public Safety Operation "Safe and Secure Across Arizona" AUGUST 30, 2006**

The Labor Day holiday traditionally finds an increase in motor vehicle traffic due to it being the last holiday of the summer. With the increased volume of traffic, comes the greater likelihood of collisions that may involve commercial motor vehicles. With the observance of the holiday, commercial motor vehicle traffic will increase due to the demand by the industry to move commodities prior to the holiday. Commercial Vehicle Drivers may feel compelled to violate the rules that govern the amount of driving they can do in a day. The focus therefore, will be on the fatigued commercial vehicle driver. The concern for a serious collision occurring due to a fatigued driver is reason enough to increase enforcement activity on commercial motor vehicles.

Further, commercial vehicles have been recognized as potential sources of Homeland Security issues on criminal activity. Drivers will also be interviewed regarding any safety or security concerns regarding observations made during their trip.

DPS officers will focus on the following three objectives.

1. To educate drivers regarding safety and seat belt usage (handouts)
2. To interview drivers regarding security issues
  - Have they seen any unusual circumstances
  - Has anyone questioned them regarding their load, route of travel, etc.
  - Has anyone tampered with their load
3. Observe criminal activity
  - Notice unusual hours of service
  - Check manifests to the loads

This one-day detail will commence on Wednesday, August 30, 2006 at 6 am, and conclude at 6pm. This detail will consist of a roving patrol and a stationary inspection site. The detail will be conducted on Interstate 10 from milepost 70.8 to milepost 126.7. The stationary inspection site will be in the Burnt Wells rest area at milepost 86. A Command Post for this detail will be at the eastbound side of the Burnt Wells rest area. **I press conference will be held at 630 am on**

**Wednesday at the Burnt Wells rest area, hosted by Lt. Gazdzik.**

In 2005, 3,534 commercial vehicles were involved in collisions, an increase of 32% from 2004. Of those collisions, 121 of them resulted in fatalities killing 144 people.

12 Federal Motor Carrier Safety Agency Officers will be participating in this detail with 59 DPS personnel.